

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

In the configuration shown in Fig. 13A, an optical reflector 513 is provided at the bottom of the ink accommodating chamber 506 as means for detecting that the ink remaining amount has reached a predetermined value. The optical reflector 513 is composed of a material having a refractive index similar to that of the ink. As shown in Figs. 13B and 13C, the optical reflector 513 is shaped like a prism with a vertical angle of 90°. In the printing apparatus main body, an optical module 551 having a light emitting section 552 and a light receiving section 553 is placed opposite the optical reflector 513. In this configuration, as shown by reference numeral 560, the light emitting section 552 irradiates the bottom of the ink accommodating chamber 506 with light. The light is transmitted through the bottom and is incident on a surface of the optical reflector 513 which has an inclination of 45° and which faces the interior of the ink accommodating chamber 506. When the ink accommodating chamber 506 contains a sufficient amount of ink, most of the thus incident light is refracted and then enters the ink accommodating chamber 506 as shown by reference numeral 561. Therefore, on this occasion, the light receiving section 553 detects little light. On the other hand, when the amount of ink in the ink accommodating chamber 506 decreases, such as to a level shown at 521, the light emitting section 552 irradiates the ink accommodating chamber 506 with light while the faces of the optical reflector 513 which face the interior of the ink accommodating chamber 506 are not in contact with the ink. Then, as shown by reference numerals 562 and 563,

most of the applied light is reflected by the two 45° inclined surfaces of the optical reflector 513 which face the interior of the ink accommodating chamber 506. The light is then led to the light receiving section 553. In this manner, it is possible to determine whether or not the level of the ink in the ink accommodating chamber 506 has lowered to such a degree that the optical reflector 513 is exposed, on the basis of the quantity of light detected by the light receiving section 553.

The paragraph beginning at line 24 of page 14 has been amended as follows:

The ink tank 1 is detachably installed on a carriage (not shown) in an ink jet printing apparatus main body using a lever 20; the carriage can be reciprocated. An ink supply port 10 is formed in a bottom wall of the negative pressure generating member accommodating chamber 5; an ink lead-out member 12 is placed in the ink supply port 10 to supply the ink to an ink jet print head supported on the carriage together with the ink tank 1. Further, an air communication port 8 is formed in a part of the cover 3 which forms a ceiling portion of the negative pressure generating member housing ~~chamber 505~~ chamber 5. The ink accommodating chamber 6 is closed except for the communication portion 9.

The paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 16 has been amended as follows:

The support member 304, on which the information storage element 301 and the contact pads 305 are mounted, is embedded in a recess formed in an outer surface 198 of the cover 3 so that the contact pads 305 are exposed from the outer surface 198. Reference numeral 199 refers to an inner surface of cover 3. The support member 304 is then sealed and fixed using a sealing adhesive 401. In this case, an optical reflector 444 is tightly placed on a surface of the information storage element 301 which is opposite a side facing the support member 304 and which is covered with the mold; the optical reflector 444 is, for example, a stainless steel mirror formed by polishing a thin plate of stainless steel. Thus, the optical reflector 444 is placed so that its reflecting surface faces downward in a vertical direction when the tank 1 is used.

The paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 19 has been amended as follows:

As schematically shown in Fig. 5, a print head unit 105 mounted on a ~~carriage 204~~ carriage 205 comprises, for example, print heads 105K, 105Y, 105M, and 105C in which a plurality of ejection openings are formed in order to eject a black (K), yellow (Y), magenta (M), and cyan (C) inks, respectively. Ink tanks 1K, 1Y, 1M, and 1C according to the present embodiment are detachably mounted in a holder of the print head unit 105 in association with the respective print heads.

The paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 31 has been amended as follows:

In the present embodiment, a non-contact type of information storage element 301b is mounted on the support substrate; the non-contact type of information storage element 301b is in a bare chip form rather than being mold-packaged. The information storage element 301b connects to an electromagnetic coupling coil pattern or antenna patterns 306a and 306b for communications with a communication portion provided in the ink jet printing apparatus main body. Connections to and from the non-contact type information storage element 301b are made via wire leads and pads, such as 391 and 392, respectively. In the present embodiment, the antenna patterns 306a and 306b are used as an optical reflector. In the antenna patterns 306a and 306b, gaps are created within a wiring member serving as an optical reflector. This reduces reflectance per unit area. However, a light beam from a light source to the optical reflector has a width of at least 1 to 2 mm. This makes it possible to effectively utilize the antenna patterns 306a and 306b as an optical reflector.